

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2022

Source
HJR 34

Legislative
Resolve No.
14



Supporting oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976) redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000 acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

WHEREAS the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the United States Geological Survey estimated there to be 8,700,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil and 25,000,000,000,000 cubic feet of recoverable gas reserves in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement estimates potential annual government revenue, including local, state, and federal taxes and royalties, of \$730,000,000 to \$4,750,000,000 from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

WHEREAS the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in the reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

WHEREAS state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska are allocated to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Impact Mitigation Fund, which is used to provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate impacts related to oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2022, the Department of the Interior took action that would effectively revert management of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the 2013 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan, removing 7,000,000 acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska from potential oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan was developed in partnership with the North Slope Borough and in consultation with North Slope tribes and Alaska Native corporations and it included provisions that would have ensured future economic development opportunities for the North Slope region, allowed for community infrastructure needs to be considered in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and required that areas identified by local and Alaska Native entities be excluded from future leasing; and

WHEREAS the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, and the North Slope Borough are all united in opposition to the Department of the Interior's reversion from the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan to the 2013 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and

have expressed concern that this reversion diminishes Alaska Native self-determination by ignoring the needs, concerns, and input of the local people who live, work, and subsist in and around the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

WHEREAS oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska has the potential to extend the life of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System and increase throughput, which has declined from a peak of 2,033,000 average barrels of oil a day in 1988 to 477,800 average barrels of oil a day in 2021; and

WHEREAS the failure of the Department of the Interior to consult with the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation before taking sweeping action violates Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments; and

WHEREAS oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska would strengthen national security and provide long-lasting benefits to the national economy by creating thousands of jobs nationwide, generating billions of dollars in government revenue, providing affordable energy to American consumers, and decreasing dependence on foreign energy; and

WHEREAS safe and responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production has been demonstrated by over 50 years of activity on the North Slope region without adverse effects on the environment or wildlife populations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to maximize the area available for oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska while conserving and protecting valued fish, wildlife, subsistence, and cultural resources; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, when considering management activities related to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, to take into account the long history of safe and responsible oil and gas development on the North Slope region and the enormous benefits that development of oil and gas resources in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska would bring to local communities, tribal governments, the state, and the nation.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President

of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; Thomas Heinlein, Acting Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the U.S. Representative for Alaska, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.